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REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended.

The claims have been revised to address alleged informalities and the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Regarding the outstanding rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), the rejection is premised on an assertion that certain subject matter in the specification has been admitted as prior art. Applicants have made no such admission. The portions of the specification containing the allegedly admitted prior art in fact contain ideas that Applicants considered during the course of developing the present invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 1-11, and the related objection to the drawings, be withdrawn.

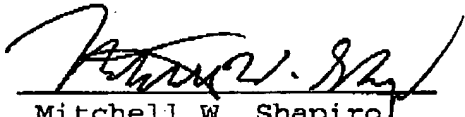
A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 (XA-10084) any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any

extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been separately requested, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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November 27, 2006

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

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